



**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF INDIANA)
BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY, INCORPORATED,)
D/B/A AMERITECH INDIANA PURSUANT TO)
I.C. 8-1-2-61 FOR A THREE-PHASE PROCESS FOR)
COMMISSION REVIEW OF VARIOUS)
SUBMISSIONS OF AMERITECH INDIANA TO)
SHOW COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 271(C) OF)
THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996)**

FILED

MAY 26 2000

**INDIANA UTILITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION**

CAUSE NO. 41657

You are hereby notified that on this date, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission has caused the following entry to be made:

On February 2, 2000, Indiana Bell Telephone Company, Incorporated d/b/a Ameritech Indiana filed pursuant to I.C. 8-1-2-61 and section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 a petition requesting that the Commission investigate various submissions of Ameritech Indiana showing compliance with Section 271(c) of TA-96. Ameritech Indiana requested that the first phase of this investigation involve a third-party test of Ameritech Indiana's Operations Support Systems ("OSS").

On Friday, April 14, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. EST in Room TC10 of the Indiana Government Center South, Indianapolis, Indiana, an attorneys' conference was held at which time the Commission notified all parties as to the procedures by which Phase I of this proceeding will be commenced. The Parties were also informed that the Commission was utilizing Mr. Frank Darr from NRRI to assist the Commission in the development of the overall strategy and preparation of the Commission's RFP process.

On April 24, 2000, the Presiding officers issued a docket entry stating that in order to take advantage of the economies of the 271 proceedings in other Ameritech states, the Commission is considering hiring Mr. John Kern to be the facilitator of the collaborative process throughout this proceeding. The Commission also stated its plans to pursue an RFP proposal to select a project administrator who will serve as surrogate staff and be advisory in nature. Lastly, the Commission asked parties to comment on those topics that were discussed at the April 14, 2000 attorneys' conference. The parties were given until May 1, 2000 to file their responses to the Commission's proposal and until May 8, 2000 to file any replies.

On May 18, 2000, the Presiding officers issued a docket entry which found that Mr. Kern should be hired and Ameritech Indiana should arrange, at its sole expense, for the retention of Mr. Kern. The docket entry also granted Ameritech Indiana's request, as presented in its May 8 reply comments, that the Commission schedule a time for Mr. Terry Appenzeller of Ameritech to give a presentation on the proposed 271 review process, with an opportunity for questions and answers with Commissioners, IURC staff and other parties. This informational meeting will be held on June 16, 2000 at 10 a.m. in Room TC10 of the Indiana Government Center South, 302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Presiding officers, after reviewing the responses to the Commission's RFP and replies to the April 24, 2000 docket entry, finds that Maxim Telecom Consulting Group ("MTG") will be hired to serve as the Commission's Surrogate Staff in this proceeding. MTG will concentrate on providing the Commission with advice and technical expertise with regard to third-party testing of Ameritech Indiana's OSS. The Presiding officers believe that MTG's work with the Regional Oversight Committee's ("ROC") 13-state test of US WEST's OSS will assist IURC staff with making recommendations concerning third-party OSS testing to the Commission.

Further, the Presiding officers find that the National Regulatory Research Institute ("NRRI") should be hired to assist Commission staff with the overall administration of this docket. While MTG's assistance to the Commission will largely consist of technical assistance in the area of third-party OSS testing, NRRI will advise the Commission on the overall structure of the proceeding and 271 issues generally.

The role of both MTG and NRRI in this proceeding will mirror that of the Commission's permanent staff. MTG, NRRI, and Commission staff assigned to this proceeding may monitor the collaboratives and the hearings to carry out their advisory functions. However, MTG, NRRI and Commission staff will not actively participate in these proceedings or advocate specific positions and will be bound by the same ex parte rules as Commission employees. The Presiding officers believe this approach will ameliorate the concerns raised by several parties in their responses to the Commission's April 24 docket entry, because it limits the involvement of MTG and NRRI strictly to advisory roles. Ameritech Indiana, at its sole expense, should arrange for the retention of MTG and NRRI. Contracts for retaining MTG and NRRI should be forwarded to the Commission for approval as soon as possible. Mr. Kern, Mr. Frank Darr of NRRI and MTG should be added to the service list in this Cause. Their addresses and telephone numbers are as follows:

John Kern
2300 N. Barrington Road
Suite 400
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195
Phone (847) 490-5350
Fax (847) 884-6370

Mr. Jack R. Boheim
President
MTG Consulting
P.O. Box 2448
Mendocino, CA 95460
Phone (707) 937-0636
Fax (707) 937-0626

Frank Darr
National Regulatory Research Institute
1080 Carmack Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Phone (614) 688-5473
Fax (614) 292-7196

From this point forward, if Mr. Kern has any questions of the Commission regarding his role, he should submit those questions in writing and serve all parties.

Since this docket entry informs the Parties who the Commission has hired, we find that Mr. Kern should contact the parties and schedule the first collaborative. The first collaborative should be scheduled for some time after the June 16, 2000 informational meeting. The Presiding officers encourage parties to use the first session to develop a "Statement of

Principles" which identifies general areas of understanding between parties concerning OSS performance testing. The Presiding officers note that a similar agreement was reached in the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's investigation into Ameritech Wisconsin's OSS on February 24, 2000, Docket 6720-TI-160. Several of the same parties are participating in this Cause. Should the parties develop a Statement of Principles, it should be filed with the Commission no later than 10 days after the collaborative session.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Camie Swanson-Hull

Camie Swanson-Hull, Commissioner

Abby R. Gray

Abby R. Gray, Administrative Law Judge

May 26, 2000

Date

Nancy E. Mundy acting for

Joseph M. Sutherland,
Secretary to the Commission